

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 10, 12, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to Katz '478, and claims 11, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Claims 1, 13 and 16 have been amended.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1 to 10, 12, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) to Katz '478, and claims 11, 13, 14, 15, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Katz '478 shows a printing cylinder assembly with hydraulic chambers which act only at axial ends of the cylinder.

Claim 1 now recites "a plurality of inflatable bladders disposed on a circumferential surface of the cylinder and substantially covering the circumferential surface of the cylinder." Support for the amendment is clearly shown in Fig. 3, for example, which shows bladders 12 extending axially along the active printing surface parts of the cylinder surface.

Katz only provides hydraulic chambers at the ends, and there would have been no motivation or reason to provide such hydraulic chambers over the axial extent of the cylinder.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Katz. Claim 13 now recites a similar limitation to claim 1 and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 13 is also respectfully requested.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Katz.

Claim 14 recites "adjusting a compressibility of the printing sock on the blanket cylinder."

Katz does not teach or show “adjusting the compressibility” of a printing sock. The purpose of the hydraulic chamber discussed in Katz at col. 4, line 18, et seq. is to secure cylinder 22. The chambers are filled with fluid until the expansion of the upper walls lead to a secure clamping of the cylinder 22. Katz discloses this process of friction contact but does not discuss at all adjusting the compressibility. Hydraulic fluid alone is not compressible without any further regulation device and Katz teaches solely to use hydraulic fluid without any special regulation devices. There is no teaching or structure in Katz at all which could provide such compressibility.

Withdrawal of the rejection to claim 14 and its dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Moreover, with respect to claim 19, Katz nowhere discusses adjusting compressibility during a printing operation, as claimed. Katz is discussing providing hydraulic fluid during an attachment step, where the press would not be printing.

Claim 16 now recites “the inflatable device having a similar axial length to the printing sock.” Support is clearly shown in Fig. 3 of the present application, for example, which shows bladders 12 having a similar axial length to printing sock 21.

As discussed above, Katz does not show such a feature, and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 16 is also respectfully requested.


Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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